

## JEFFREY M. NELSON Chief Legal Officer

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August 8, 2019

## **VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Jocelyn G. Boyd, Esquire Chief Clerk & Administrator Public Service Commission of South Carolina 101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100 Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Re: Docket Nos. 2019-184-E; 2019-185-E and 2019-186-E

Dear Ms. Boyd:

The subject matter experts retained by the Office of Regulatory Staff's ("ORS") in the above referenced dockets are employees of E3 and reside in the State of California.

At yesterday's agenda meeting held August 7<sup>th</sup>, the opportunity to participate in a technical conference via video teleconferencing was raised by Commissioner Williams. The Commission does allow video teleconferencing in telecommunications hearings. Considering that discussion, ORS raised with the E3 the possibility of testifying via video conference and they are comfortable doing so.

Due to the potential length of the hearings in these three dockets, E3 would be required to either make multiple trips from the West Coast or stay in Columbia for a very extended period, and if there are multiple trips, there are always concerns that travel can be delayed or cancelled. Additionally, the cost for these experts to appear in person before the Commission would be expensive, and these costs will eventually be passed through to South Carolina ratepayers.

To reduce time and travel costs, ORS requests that the Commission permit ORS to present its expert witnesses in these dockets via video teleconferencing. If permitted, ORS and E3 would

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coordinate with Commission staff to ensure the equipment for video conferencing is compatible with that used by the Commission.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Yours truly,

leffrey M. Nelson

cc: Joseph Melchers, Esquire (via E-mail) All Parties of Record (via E-mail)